June 27, 2022

Mo. Mo. Crisanta "Nene" Alimagno, TOCarm.
Prioress
TOC Pilar Community

Health in the Lord and blessings of the Holy Spirit!

I am writing this letter to express my request to formally request to exit in my formation to the Third Order of Carmel.

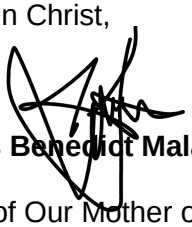
After much careful thought, reflection, and discernment during the evaluation interview and in the past few months, I am resolving with my decision that is aforementioned in this letter. The reasons that I am leaving the order and ceasing my formation are the following:

1. There is a constant conflict regarding the schedule of activities that would often coincide with my professional career which hampered my participation in such activities. This scenario would place me in a difficult situation where I am not able to focus on the recollections or meetings when I am performing my professional duties. I am now pursuing better career choices that will help me develop professionally.
2. I wish to pursue my spiritual journey in a different direction which would not compromise my foundation - the Holy Mass in the Extraordinary Form, my devotion to the other titles of the Blessed Mother, and my service to God and the faithful through the Ecclesiastically sanctioned pious associations that I am fully involved with. During the evaluation interview, I was aghast with the comment that I should solely focus on the Carmelite Spirituality and give up on the things that gave me the groundwork to grow in faith and I express my disappointment.
3. In recent months, I have discovered that I am more attracted to and at peace with a community that not only respects one's individuality but also gives me the chance to do things that I have never done before. This helped me see the Lord in a way He wants me to serve Him in the Holy Mass in the Extraordinary Form that honed and helped me mature in my Catholic faith for six years before my admission to Carmel. I wish to render more time with this community because it will always be an honor for me to serve Him at the altar.
4. I will take this opportunity as well to express my discomfort with treating myself like a child in meetings, given the age that I began my formation and I was hoping that I would be taken seriously as a mature adult which made me feel a disconnect and created a difficulty to create good relationships with other members. And I found it in the community and associations who always treated me seriously as a full-grown and wise adult with capabilities to do things of my own volition.

This decision may be difficult yet with much prayer, discernment, and guidance, I am fully resolved with my decision to exit and cease my formation in the future.

I will always be thankful for the years of my initial stages of formation in the Third Order of Carmel. I will always take the lessons that I've learned during those times which I apply in my own spiritual life and will always be forever grateful for it.

Yours in Christ,



James Benedict Malabanan

Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help